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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

REPORT ON THE JOINT NORTH AMERICAN/EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION CONSULTATION, HELD AT GENEVA, ON 30 AND 31 AUGUST 1993

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 47/116 B of 18 December 1992, authorized the Special Committee against Apartheid, in accordance with its mandate as the focal point for the international campaign against apartheid, to mobilize international support for the elimination of apartheid through the early establishment in South Africa of a society based on an agreed democratic and non-racial constitution as envisaged in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The Assembly, amongst other things, mandated the Special Committee to facilitate a peaceful and stable transition in South Africa by promoting international assistance to help South Africans overcome the negative social and economic consequences of the policies of apartheid by following up on the Windhoek Seminar in cooperation with, inter alia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system. In this context the Assembly mandated the Special Committee to undertake liaison and consultations with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and institutions, as well as other relevant groups, both inside and outside South Africa.

2. In accordance with that provision, the Special Committee included in its programme of work for 1993 the holding of a consultation at Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1993, specifically with those North American and European non-governmental organizations with a programme focus on assistance and cooperation with community-based organizations in South Africa in developing and implementing projects at the grass-roots level, and with their counterparts in South Africa. The two-day consultation was co-organized with the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization in Geneva.

3. The objectives of the consultation were to afford the participants an opportunity:

(a) To interface and discuss new approaches to working together in partnership on meeting social and economic development needs of rural and township communities in South Africa;

(b) To identify needs prioritized by democratic South African community movements and difficulties in developing social and economic services in townships and rural areas;

(c) To discuss ways to bring support for institutional capacity-building for community-based NGOs in South Africa;

(d) To determine ways to strengthen people-to-people relationships between international constituency-based organizations and their South African counterparts; and to increase cooperation between North American/European and South African NGOs;

(e) To discuss modalities for promoting investments, loans and grants to meet developmental needs of rural and township communities.

I. AGENDA AND PROCEDURES

4. The consultation was opened on 30 August 1993 by Mr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal), Vice Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid (for his statement, see annex I to the present report). Other speakers at the opening session were Mr. Johan Nordenfelt, Director, Centre against Apartheid (see annex II), Ms. Patricia de Lille of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and Ms. Jane Xaba, who made a brief remark on behalf of South African NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs).

5. Following the opening session, the participants adopted the provisional programme of work, and after consultation agreed on the composition of the list of workshop moderators and panellists (see annex III). Thereafter, the consultation continued in three consecutive workshops and a closing session.

II. PARTICIPANTS

6. The Special Committee against Apartheid was represented by its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Jayaraj Acharya, (Nepal), Mr. Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi (Zimbabwe), and Mr. Abdullahi A. Omaki (Nigeria). In addition, representatives of States members of the Special Committee accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva took part in the opening session.

7. Representatives of 10 NGOs from North America, 14 NGOs from Europe and 15 NGOs and CBOs from South Africa participated in the consultation. United Nations agencies were also represented. The list of participants is provided in annex V to the present report.

III. DOCUMENTS

8. The Centre against Apartheid provided a number of documents for the consultation, primary among these were; Report of the Seminar on South Africa's Socio-Economic Problems: Future Role of the United Nations System in Helping to Address Them, held at Windhoek from 22 to 24 May 1992 (A/AC.115/L.685); Report on the Consultations with anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations, held at Geneva on 30 November and 1 December 1992 (A/AC.115/L.691); Report of the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid on his Mission to South Africa, 1 to 11 March 1993 (A/48/202, annex); Declaration of the International Conference on Southern Africa: Making Hope a Reality, held in London on 14 and 15 June 1993 (A/48/255, annex I); and Southern Africa After Apartheid (Africa Recovery Briefing Paper No. 4, 1991). Some representatives of the participating organizations also submitted background documents (see annex VI).

IV. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

9. During the three consecutive workshops and a closing session, the meeting discussed a wide range of issues within the context of the agenda. South African participants at the consultations held a caucus in order to discuss between themselves areas of agreed and shared concerns which helped the consultation reach a consensus on proposals for action. The ideas emerging from

the consultation between the South African participants are subjoined in paragraphs 10 to 23 below.

Ideas emerging from the consultations between South African participants

"We, the South African participants in the consultation, appreciate having been invited. However, we believe if we had been fully briefed beforehand, we could have contributed more meaningfully.

"The group knows the United Nations understands that we do not represent the South African NGO/CBO fraternity, but simply reflect our individual organizational experiences. Although we have found much commonality, our views should not be construed as representative of the whole NGO/CBO community.

"Our ideas are not refined. Last night three small groups brainstormed and surfaced ideas for debate. Today we hope to collectively refine these ideas. In the same way, we understand that in this South African transition, the United Nations and international donors are grappling equally with defining their role and an appropriate way forward.

"We all - South Africans and international community alike - need to understand the priorities for development in South Africa. Equally, the need is recognized for donor agencies - to support us in terms of the priorities which we ourselves have identified. We need to define our own needs, write our own agendas and programmes, and not be forced into pre-designed projects. We want to develop our own indigenous systems and materials.

"The group expressed concern that the nature of international support is not predominantly missions of experts.

"While we appreciate that external support cannot meet our unlimited needs, we need to know the level, tenure and duration of possible support from United Nations and international donor support agencies.

"The group expressed its concern about development of second-phase donors. There is a danger of centralization which limits a variety of responses to a variety of approaches. We need the diversity.

"The group further expressed its concern about the increasing failure of, particularly, World Bank projects. We want to prevent this happening.

"Both NGOs and CBOs need financial and technical support. It is important not to create a division - or to exacerbate it if it exists. This could develop different and unnecessary sources of tension.

"We recognize that there has been a bias in favour of large urban-based projects. There needs to be a balance between rural and urban support, based on needs. The imbalance of resource allocations in terms of urban and rural support should be redressed.

"The United Nations system should stand ready to support initiatives by South African NGOs and CBOs at all levels - local, regional and national - to form effective mechanisms for coordination and cooperation.

"The interdependent relationship between NGOs and CBOs, the promotion of their mutual accountability and the empowerment of CBOs are of vital importance.

"Realizing that in the short term government will not be able to cope, we like to see a continued direct and structured relationship with international donor organizations rather than have those funds conducted through the new Government.

"The group feels deeply that a strong civil society is essential and that NGOs are there to see that justice is done from a position outside government. Therefore we must continue to promote an autonomous NGO sector."

10. Following the presentation of the ideas emerging from the caucus by the South African participants and further extensive discussions involving all the participants, the consultation adopted the following proposals for action.

V. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATIONS

11. The Special Committee against Apartheid, in cooperation with the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization held a consultation with non-governmental organizations from North America, Europe and South Africa at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1993. Representatives of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, some Governments and United Nations agencies participated in the consultations.

12. In particular, the consultation provided an opportunity for the participants:

(a) To interface and discuss new approaches to working together in partnership on meeting social and economic development needs of rural and township communities in South Africa;

(b) To identify needs prioritized by democratic South African community movements and difficulties in developing social and economic services in townships and rural areas;

(c) To discuss ways to bring support for institutional capacity-building for community-based NGOs in South Africa;

(d) To determine ways to strengthen people-to-people relationships between international constituency-based organizations and their South African counterparts; and to increase cooperation between North American/European and South African NGOs.

(e) To discuss modalities for promoting investments, loans and grants to meet developmental needs of rural and township communities.

13. Participants welcomed continued efforts by the United Nations to assist in the facilitation of the establishment of a non-racial society in South Africa. In this regard the consultation was in accord with the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa (General Assembly resolution S-16/1). Participants acknowledged the essential role that anti-apartheid movements had played and would continue to play in support of the democratic process in South Africa and recognized the vital importance for the transition process of cooperation between North American/European NGOs and South African grass-roots organizations in facilitating the realization of community-based development. In considering the various ideas presented and the interventions made during the deliberations, there was broad agreement among the participants on the following issues.

A. Political transition

14. In reviewing the South African situation, participants recognized that, while the political parties had taken positive measures within the Multi-party Negotiation Forum in addressing critical political questions, only a negotiated settlement allowing for one-person/one-vote election and the formation of a non-racial government would provide the institutional legitimacy for large-scale policies to redress the socio-economic imbalances that are the legacies of the apartheid system.

15. Participants underscored the role of the multi-party negotiating process in securing the transition to a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa; and urged those parties that had withdrawn from the forum to rejoin it. They welcomed the setting of 27 April 1994 as the date for South Africa's first non-racial elections and expressed the hope that the envisaged Transitional Executive Council would be established as soon as possible. They urged the parties within the multi-party negotiating process to exert themselves in order to attain the necessary consensus required for resolving the pertinent outstanding transitional and constitutional issues.

16. Participants expected that the United Nations, amongst other international organizations, would have a critical role to play in monitoring the election and the preparations for it. They emphasized the importance of continued cooperation between the United Nations system, and especially between the Special Committee and anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations. They reiterated that the international community has an obligation to ensure the fulfilment of the United Nations Declaration by maintaining its support for the political process leading to a non-racial South Africa.

B. Political violence

17. Participants expressed profound concern about the unprecedented level and nature of ongoing political violence. In this regard, they expressed particular concern about the highly threatening activities of extremists. Noting that the upsurge in violence involved a high toll of human lives and damage to properties, the participants were of the view that it is the primary responsibility of all Governments to maintain the security of all its citizens, and called upon the National Party Government to fully accept this

responsibility. They urged leaders of the various parties to do their utmost to bring to an end the violence, and called on them to ensure that the ongoing political violence did not derail the negotiation process. Participants expressed support for international observer missions and monitoring programmes taking practical steps to alleviate violence and called on the international community to fund such programmes.

C. Role of the international community

18. Participants expressed concern at assumptions that the socio-economic inequities created by the apartheid system no longer existed or were all being effectively addressed. They called for increased assistance to non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in South Africa. They reiterated the need for assistance to be based on the development priorities established in partnership with civic organizations in the disadvantaged areas of society; and to remain flexible in order to be able to respond positively, taking into account the force of the democratization process in South Africa.

19. The participants expressed the hope that the international community would respond to the needs of the disadvantaged sectors in South Africa by ensuring an effective mobilization for human resources development as well as coordination and deployment of such assistance. They welcomed the convening by the United Nations of a Donors Conference on Human Resource Development in South Africa. In this regard they were of the view that it would be necessary to undertake a review of priority areas strategically relevant to South Africa's social transformation and expressed strong support for donor responsibility and accountability through mechanisms such as a donor code of conduct.

D. Role of international non-governmental organizations

20. Participants acknowledged that both international anti-apartheid movements and other non-governmental organizations must continue to have an important role in supporting a peaceful change in South Africa by maintaining political pressure on the South African Government, including appropriate sanctions; and, equally important, in cooperating directly with South African community-based partners to promote their empowerment by enhancing their capacity for self-reliance. In this regard, one of the roles of international NGOs will continue to be to advocate support from the donors for people-centred, participatory initiatives in South Africa.

E. Role of South African non-governmental and community-based organizations

21. Recognizing that the rural development crisis in South Africa had its roots in the apartheid system, participants agreed that South African NGOs and CBOs have critical and complementary roles to play in ensuring the political and economic empowerment of the people at the grass-roots level. Civic organizations have a critical role to play by undertaking non-sectarian voter-education campaigns. Additionally, NGOs and CBOs must strive to have community-based development adopted as a national development policy in order to take into

account the decades of oppression in South Africa that discouraged community-based development and to reflect the rich diversity of South African society.

22. Finally, the NGO entities must be able to clearly see their role as being that of an intermediary and a supportive advocate with the local community, its members and its organizations as their partners.

F. Role of policy-making institutions

23. Participants stressed the importance of implementing a programme both of administrative reforms and of skills enhancement as a means of combating the lopsided effect of the apartheid system on human resources development. They stressed the underlying importance of developing a new economy based on partnership between government, the corporate sector and civil society.

24. The participants recognized that the effective utilization of such resources would involve extensive collaboration between donor agencies and organizations, including those within the United Nations system, and the recipients at the grass-roots level. In this respect participants reiterated the need for institutional programmes that focus on poverty reduction, enhancement of the role of women in development as well as human-centred and sustainable development. They stressed the need to continue to advocate the provision of adequate, decent basic community services for marginalized citizens.

25. Participants expressed concern about possible consequences of capital inflows in the form of international loans and foreign direct investment without adequate consideration of the terms and costs of such flows. Participants suggested the Code of Conduct for Corporations operating in South Africa adopted by the South African Council of Churches as a responsible framework for investment.

26. Participants agreed that in the context of South Africa's history and current political circumstances, institutional management capacity without a supportive and enabling local authority framework would not be sustainable. They acknowledge that if people in the disadvantaged sectors did not acquire administrative and management skills, those sectors would be less prepared to establish long-term institutional capacity. Participants recognized that development based on community-based skills acquired in the anti-apartheid struggle may be particularly resourceful and significantly complement government efforts in mobilizing both capital and other forms of resources for human development.

G. Needs prioritized by democratic South African community

27. Stressing the need for sustainability of development at the community level, participants agreed that basic human needs must be priority areas for action in both township and rural communities. They noted the gross discrepancy in resource allocation in these areas for the White community and the Black and other disadvantaged segments of the society. Overarching principles that should govern all assistance should include the correction of gender imbalance in all sections and the insurance of the sustainability of projects undertaken.

28. Participants recognized that the problem with adequately addressing the priority needs had arisen in part from the non-existence or limited scope of related infrastructures. Four areas identified were: (a) physical infrastructure - entailing water and electricity supply, roads, sanitation and communications; (b) social infrastructure - comprising schools, hospitals and social welfare organizations; (c) economic infrastructure - which includes basically agricultural, marketing and finance; and (d) political infrastructure, comprising organizational capacity, awareness creation, community participation, and preparation of rural people to assume the responsibilities of sound democratic local governance.

29. Participants agreed that capacity-building - whether through technical assistance, skills training, basic education or equipment transfer - could not be divorced from community needs and other requirements of local entities. They noted that training was one of the most effective instruments for enhancing skills and addressing the "gaps" in human resources. Citing the inextricable link between training, employment and productivity, participants agreed that there was a need for appropriate funding mechanisms to meet short-, medium- and long-term development requirements, promote national capacity-building through sectoral programmes and help prevent urban decay and rural migration. One of the key problems in this area, however, was the growing bureaucracy which tended to stifle the essential flexibility and enthusiasm required to bring community-based development to fruition.

H. Basis for action

30. Participants agreed that the above views represented a broad area of shared interest and basis for action and cooperation between international NGOs and their South African counterparts. They emphasized the need for continued cooperation and partnership. While emphasizing that the duty for redressing the anomalies in the South African society remained that of South Africans, they acknowledge that it would be an easier task with the assistance of the international community. Whereas South African NGOs and CBOs will continue to have absolute responsibility for ensuring that there is greater engagement and improved orientation and involvement on their part, during the transitional period and in the post-apartheid era, their international counterparts will have a continued role in resource generation for development projects and assisting with their implementation by providing technical support.

31. Recognizing that the international NGOs stood to benefit from the experience gained in working with their South African counterparts, participants agreed that there will be a need for shared experiences with regard to information and training, workshops, networking, comparative experiences and the ability to analyse and assess the effect at the grass-roots level of existing and new community-oriented development programmes. This communication should also be encouraged between South African NGOs and their counterparts in the southern hemisphere and the rest of Africa.

Annex I

OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JAYARAJ ACHARYA (NEPAL), VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

I would like to welcome all the participants to the consultation. This consultation, which brings together non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from North America, Europe and their South African counterparts, is unique in the sense that unlike previous anti-apartheid movement (AAM) and NGO consultations organized by the Special Committee, this year's consultation, in response to demands and priorities of South African community-based organizations, specifically targets international NGOs with a programme focus on assistance and development cooperation with community-based organizations in South Africa. Our shift in emphasis has been dictated by recent political developments in South Africa, which rightly suggests that we move on from the more traditional anti-apartheid agenda to an emphasis on development assistance, which, in the light of the inequalities and other socio-economic imbalances that exist in South Africa, seems a relevant priority today. This shift in no way signifies a diminished role for our collaborators in the anti-apartheid organizations.

Our goal, therefore, is to consult on how best to contribute to the development of an agenda of cooperation in direct response to the priorities of disadvantaged communities. This meeting also ought to provide us with an opportunity to discuss the potential of the international NGO community to assist with resource mobilization and the optimal use of resources that can be made available for community-based projects, and to further develop ongoing partnerships and promote new ones in that process.

South Africa has come a long way since the dark days of pass laws, banned liberation movements and incarcerated political leaders. In spite of the many disruptions and delays, a culture of negotiation has indeed taken root in that country. Twenty-six delegations representing a truly diverse population, which is inherent in that country, are currently negotiating agreements that would guide the country into the post-apartheid era, agreements that will of necessity have a defining impact on the future for all of South Africa's citizens. The responsibility, therefore, weighs heavily on all the leaders participating in the overall settlement process. While three of the parties have suspended participation in negotiations until certain demands are met, intense efforts are being made to break the deadlock and to persuade the parties to return to negotiations, making it all-inclusive and broadly representative of the people of South Africa. Recently, a preliminary draft interim constitution was released. Although still incomplete and subject to many changes within the coming months, it is undeniably a milestone for a nation whose majority has never exercised the fundamental right to vote. And with a date set for democratic elections - 27 April 1994 - the political process, with all of its difficulties, seems to be moving ahead.

If one visits South Africa today, one will find sparkling cities and leafy suburbs. South Africa has a good infrastructure, many rich people, a few world-class companies, good hospitals and universities. Many White South Africans consider theirs a rich country and, in a way, they are right. In 1988, the gross domestic product (GAP) per head for South African Whites was $6,500, compared to $650 for Zimbabweans and $1,600 for Botswanans. White South

Africans could expect to live for 73 years. Adult literacy is nearly 100 per cent. These figures seem to indicate that South Africa belongs to the first world rather than the third. Except that it does not. Look beyond its White minority, and you will find that South Africa is not part of the first world at all. The majority of South Africans struggle for access to the basics of life - land, water, work, living space and basic social services. Ninety per cent of Black South Africans are living below the breadline, and 84 per cent of the country's estimated 30 million Blacks are earning less than enough to ensure that their families have adequate nutrition.

These are dismal statistics in a country that holds 44 per cent of the world's known reserves of gold and 24 per cent of the globe's diamonds, along with rich agricultural land. Whites still control 87 per cent of the country's land, which actually gives each White, on average, 28 times more land - and its underlying mineral wealth - than each Black. Whites receive personal incomes 9.5 times those of Blacks. Seventy per cent of Black households do not have direct access to water, and even less have electricity in their homes. These socio-economic disparities are indeed shocking in a seemingly first world country.

The aim of apartheid - euphemistically known as "separate development" - was to remove all Blacks from most of South Africa to designated Black "homelands" where they would pursue their own separate tribal nationhood. The homeland, as you know, is a gross failure, giving testimony to the unworkability and bankruptcy of the system of apartheid. The homelands have failed to become viable economic or political entities and instead have become mostly overcrowded and underdeveloped rural slums, home to a majority of the South African Black population. As the apartheid system is being abandoned, the problem of developing these remote areas remains acute. Socio-economic inequalities, which are apparent all over South Africa, are particularly evident in the homelands, other rural areas, and in the townships. Inequalities are rooted not only in wealth and incomes but also in access to public services and facilities. Each and every South African has contributed to his country's wealth through migrant labour and consumer taxes. Naturally they feel that they have a right to a fairer share. The pent-up demands and the expectations are, indeed, daunting. Any new Government will have an unenviable task in trying to correct past imbalances as soon as possible, and improve the appalling living standards, especially rural areas and townships, while maintaining or improving the foundations of economic growth.

The international community has through the years strongly supported South Africans in their campaign against apartheid and its destructive effects, both politically and materially. In response to changes that have only just begun, South Africans have received almost 1 billion rand in development aid from overseas sources in 1992, making it one of the world's biggest recipients of project aid. Too often, however, the benefits of programmes and projects do not reach the local poor but are absorbed by those in power within a region. Recent international discussions on the relationship between poverty and development seem to reflect a renewed interest in local initiatives. There has been a call for the empowerment of local administrations and people in communities to organize their own resource management. While local planning cannot replace central planning when it comes to capital-intensive projects essential for much-needed infrastructure for rural South Africans, local populations and community-based organizations should, to the extent that such activities affect local

conditions, become involved in the planning and implementation of these activities.

The NGOs have, over the years, helped immensely in providing support for literally thousands of private groups in human rights, education, health and welfare fields. The NGO sector is generally viewed as most suitable to assume an intermediary role to bridge the gap between communities on the one hand and development agencies and the public and private sectors on the other. NGOs are seen to be able to relate to both parties, fundamentally supporting the aspirations of the poor, with a considerable measure of competence and professional skills. But NGOs are, unfortunately, not present in sufficient numbers in the rural sector in South Africa. There is, therefore, the need to address the problems of the impoverished, particularly in the rural areas, in a way that will encourage participation and self-reliance of the local population and harness the knowledge and experience of community-based organizations.

At present, there are literally thousands of urgent needs, an appalling backlog left by systematic neglect, exclusion and repression. There are certain aspects in the South Africans' daily life which cannot wait till the end of the negotiations process, problems which need to be dealt with immediately.

The Special Committee against Apartheid, in doing its part to facilitate a peaceful and stable transition in South Africa, seeks to promote international assistance in helping South Africans in overcoming the social and economic disparities resulting from the policies of apartheid. It is therefore opportune that consultations such as this take place at this time in order to focus on the social and economic development needs of rural and township communities in South Africa and the role of international NGOs in helping them meet these needs. Studies indicate that the majority of South Africans who are shut out from development opportunities are mostly rural dwellers, women and ethnic minorities. The goal of the consultation, therefore, would be to contribute to the development of an agenda of cooperation in direct response to the priorities of disadvantaged population groups and communities, to provide an opportunity to discuss the potential of the international NGO community to assist with resource mobilization and the optimal use of these resources.

The South African NGOs and community-based organizations which, over the years, have developed the talent and capacity for starting and carrying out community projects, could further develop partnerships and promote new ones. The international NGOs represented here today, along with many others, with an experience in community-based development cooperation, are interested to work directly with rural and township groups in South Africa to tackle those needs at the grass-roots level.

Ultimately, redressing socio-economic imbalances in South Africa will depend on a growing economy, not on foreign assistance. The outside world stands ready to help South Africa, but what it can provide in terms of direct dollars and other means of assistance will not be adequate to deal with the enormous task of correcting the massive inequalities as well as building an economy that could sustain continuous growth. It is therefore essential that development projects focus on preparing rural citizens to assume responsibilities of sound democratic local governance needs, as well as on encouraging entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

While few expect the continuing evolvement of a new South Africa to be an easy task, the recent violence that has racked that country has reached disturbing new heights. The killings in the townships have also become more gruesome. Many South Africans face their first democratic electoral campaign and non-racial elections with fear and trepidation. Political leaders say that violence, which sharply increased when the decision on the election date was announced, is primarily caused by elements bent on derailing the transition to democracy. However, the violence seems in large measure also to be due to an entrenched "culture of violence" in South African society, with its root in the repression of apartheid and in the resistance to it, but which now appears to have taken on a life of its own. Factional warfare, feuds and vendettas, fights over economic and ethnic turfs, a variety of ordinary crimes - all point to a continuing disintegration of the South African society. Negotiators should realize that it is becoming increasingly clear that unless a credible, democratically representative and legitimate Government is established quite soon, the problem of violence cannot be effectively addressed. The country's economy will continue to slide, its potential for economic growth necessary for the well-being of all South Africans will be seriously jeopardized and the tasks of a future government almost impossible. And the urgent socio-economic problems of South Africa will continue to remain on the back burner of the agenda of political leaders until a political settlement has been reached. It is therefore high time that political leaders move the process forward, without delay. South Africans have waited far too long.

Annex II

STATEMENT BY MR. JOHAN NORDENFELT, DIRECTOR,
CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

As the Chairman quite rightly pointed out in his opening remarks, this year's consultation is somewhat different from those held in the past by the Special Committee. Against the background of important developments that have taken place in South Africa in the recent past, the mode of this consultation reflects the present orientation within both the United Nations system and the international community towards emphasizing assistance and development cooperation programmes for South Africa. We believe one of the recommendations that may result from this timely consultation should emphasize the importance of assistance to facilitate greater community self-help - help to self-help.

We believe there are grounds to fear that, as the multi-party negotiations progress and we move closer to the envisaged non-racial elections, the assumption is being made in many quarters that the socio-economic inequities created by the apartheid system no longer exist or are all being effectively addressed. Similarly, there is often the commonplace belief that with the presumed influx of international institutional assistance and aid programmes, disadvantaged South Africans are all getting the help they require. We in this room know better. Most institutional assistance is directed towards institutions in the receiving country, or towards larger institution-like and city-based non-governmental agencies and foundations, rather than to small community-based organizations in townships and rural areas. This realization has in part informed the structuring of this consultation and the character of organizations invited to participate in it.

We fully realize that in the present circumstance of scarce human development resources and wide-ranging competing social and economic interests, effective coordination with the communities in direct need for the deployment of available resources may be as important as the mobilization of the resources itself. A primary focus now is to reach out to the grass roots and help them embark on expanded self-help programmes.

In drawing up a suggested agenda of this consultation, we have been drawing upon our interaction with representatives of the national liberation movements, and upon community-based organizations and international NGOs, who have written to us or otherwise found opportunities to be in touch with us. We have tried to put together a programme that offers the participants an opportunity to discuss needs identified by democratic South African community movements as priority areas, and their assessments of what must be given priority in developing social and economic services in townships and rural areas. In this regard, one could mention, for example, issues such as primary health care, education and literacy campaigns, skills development that promote income generation and small business investment promotion. We recognize also that, in spite of an evident willingness by many to render assistance to South Africans, such assistance is by no means limitless in a world where there are too many areas of conflict, famine and hunger. Consequently, there is a need for both judicious use and harmonization of available resources.

Therefore, in bringing together South African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) with their international counterparts in a setting such as this, we merely wish to assist in the strengthening of people-to-people relationships between these two important partners in the struggle against apartheid and to offer them an opportunity to discuss what contributions can be brought to the grass-roots process and to start or expand their own planning in this regard. We believe your contributions are essential for a successful transition to a post-apartheid South Africa. We hope that the alliance formed here will be exploited to its fullest potential. Unfortunately, we have not been able, owing to limited resources, to invite all those who had expressed their interest in participating in this consultation. However, we are convinced that the discussions here will be frank, focused and productive, and we hope that you will all set off a ripple effect so that the outcome will benefit also those who could not be with us here today.

I wish to join the Chairman in thanking those who have honoured us with their presence and express the hope that they will find this consultation rewarding and worth their time and contribution. I also wish to express special and heartfelt thanks to the NGO Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization for their very helpful and creative support in making this consultation possible.

Annex III

LIST OF MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

Workshop 1	Agenda items 1, 2 and 3	
Moderator:	Johan Nordenfelt	United Nations Centre Against Apartheid
Panellists:	Ms. Patricia De Lille	Pan Africanist Congress of Azania
	Mr. Jack Blaker	Environmental Development Agency
	Ms. Imani Countess	Washington Office on Africa
Workshop 2	Agenda item 4	
Moderator:	Mr. Abdullahi A. Omaki	Special Committee Against Apartheid
Panellists:	Mr. Steve McDonald	African American Institute
	Ms. Cindy Berman	Christian Aid
Workshop 3	Agenda items 5, 6 and 7	
Moderator:	Ms. Jennifer Davis	American Committee on Africa
Panellists:	Mr. Peter Mayer	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
	Mr. Peter Derman	Community Organization Research and Development

Annex IV

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY H.E. MR. JAYARAJ ACHARYA (NEPAL), VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

As this international NGO consultation draws to a close, I would wish to express my own and the Special Committee's warm thanks to all of you who came and contributed to this meeting and to our discussions.

The Special Committee is aware that the NGOs have, over the years, helped immensely in providing support for literally thousands of private groups in human rights, education, health and welfare fields. The NGO sector is generally viewed as most suitable to assume an intermediary role to bridge the gap between communities on the one hand and development agencies and the public and private sectors on the other. As was explained at the outset of our meeting, the Special Committee against Apartheid, in deciding on its focus and format, was responding to suggestions and requests by international NGOs which, in the past, may not have been given sufficient space and attention in our work and to the desire expressed by many of them to have an opportunity to meet and discuss directly with people from South African grass-roots organizations.

In fact, this meeting was a historical first. It not only brought together for the first time North American and European NGOs with counterparts in South Africa; it also brought together South Africans from various civic and community-based organizations who had never had an opportunity to meet before; and it brought together many people from international donor and assistance-oriented NGOs who had not met before.

It is perhaps only natural that, this being a first gathering of this kind, the discussion was often tentative and sometimes hesitant. However, it is also clear that it was of the greatest importance to non-South African participants to hear from a variety of South African civic and community-based organizations of the diversity and range of their concerns and problems and of their amazing resilience and creativity. Indeed, their creativity was also reflected here by the fact that the South Africans took the initiative to form small discussion groups among themselves to focus and articulate some special areas of concern which was of great help to participating international NGOs and to the organizers of this meeting.

We believe that by meeting directly with international donor and assistance-oriented non-governmental organizations, South African civic and community-based organizations are taking another important step of empowerment. Likewise, by meeting directly with people from civic and community-based organizations in South Africa, international NGOs are at the beginning of a journey of new insights and of learning that will be of immense benefit to them in their future work.

We are therefore gratified by the fact that participants agreed that they need to continue a sustained pattern of networking, and of cooperation and partnership between South African civic and community-based organizations and international donor and assistance-oriented non-governmental organizations.

The views and conclusions we have reached here today will be reflected in the report of this consultation. We in the Special Committee will do our utmost to give those views the widest publicity to ensure their implementation. I thank you all for honouring our invitation and wish you a safe journey home. This consultation is hereby adjourned.

Annex V

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

H.E. Mr. Jayaraj Acharya (Nepal), Vice-Chairman
H.E. Mr. Simbarashe S. Mumbengegwi (Zimbabwe)
Mr. Abdullahi A. Omaki (Nigeria)

STATES MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

Mr. Kossam Mupezeni
First Secretary
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe at Geneva
5 Chemin du Rivage
1292 Chambesy, Geneva
Tel. 732-0434

NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

Ms. Patricia De Lille
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)
Federal Building, Room 506
Tulbag Centre
Cape Town 8001, South Africa
Tel. (021) 211-971/2
Fax (021) 216-023

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS

North America

Ms. Donna Katzin
Director, South Africa and International Justice Programs
Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility
475 Riverside Drive, Room 566
New York, NY 10115
Tel. (212) 870-2928
Fax (212) 870-2023

Mr. Steve McDonald
Executive Vice-President
African-American Institute
833 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Tel. (212) 949-5666
Fax (212) 682-6174

Ms. Jennifer Davis, Executive Director
American Committee on Africa
198 Broadway, Room 402
New York, NY 10038
Tel. (212) 962-1210
Fax (212) 964-8570

Mr. Willis Logan
Director, Africa Office
National Council of Churches USA
475 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10115
Tel. (212) 870-2645
Fax (212) 870-2055

The Honourable Walter McLean, M.P.
Special Representative for Southern Africa
Government of Canada
122 Avondale Avenue 5
Waterloo ONT Canada
N2L-2C3
Tel. (519) 578-5932

Ms. Anne Mitchell, President
Canada South Africa Cooperation
P. O. Box 1034, Station B
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5RI
Home: 148 Rusholme Rd., Toronto, Canada M6H 2Y7
Home tel. (416) 533-8402
Home fax (same as tel.)

Ms. Lesley McKeen, Executive Director
South African Rural Development Support Program
113 Gardners Mill Road
Augusta, GA 30907
Tel. (706) 860-1406
Fax (706) 650-2379

Mr. Andy Smith III
Director, Social and Ethical Responsibility
American Baptist Churches USA
Abcusa Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
Tel. (215) 768-2459
Fax (215) 768-2470

Ms. Imani Countess
Executive Director
Washington Office on Africa
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Suite 112
Washington, D.C. 20002
Tel. (202) 546 7961
Fax (202) 546 1545

Mr. Prexy Nesbitt
Senior Program Officer
MacArthur Foundation
140 S. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60603-5285
Tel. (312) 920-6283
Fax (312) 917-2000

Europe

Mr. Steve Kibble
NGDO/EC Liaison Committee
Convener of Working Group on Southern Africa
Square Ambiorix 10
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel. (322) 736 40 87
Fax (322) 732 19 34

Mr. Peter Mayer
Desk Officer, Southern Africa Division for International Cooperation
Friedrich Ebert Foundation
Godesberger Allee 149
51370 Bonn, Germany
Tel. (49) 228-883-580
Fax (49) 228-883-623

Mr. Dave Seligson, Director
Trade Union Solidarity Centre of Finland (SASK)
UnioninKatu 45H 115
00170 Helsinki, Finland
Tel. (3580) 135-1833
Fax (3580) 135-5703

Mr. Michel van den Heuvel
South Africa Contact
Wesselsgade 4 KLD 2200 N
Copenhagen
Tel. (4531) 35 9232
Fax (4531) 35 4332

Ms. Ireen Dubel
Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS)
P.O. Box 2227, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel. (263 14) 706704
Fax (263 14) 706125

Mr. Egil S. Wisloff Nilssen
Deputy Head
Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)
Landingsveien 24
0767 Oslo
Tel. (4722) 33 1590
Fax (4722) 33 3353

Mr. Ingvar Flink
Africa Groups of Sweden (AGIS)
Barnangsgatan 23
S-116 41 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel. (46 8) 644-0425
Fax (46 8) 640-3660

Mr. Bertjan Van Bruchem
Project Officer
Holland Committee on Southern Africa
O.Z. Achterburgwal 173
1012 DJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel. (3120) 627 0801
Fax (3120) 627 0441

Ms. Cindy Berman
Project Officer
Christian Aid
35 Lower Marsh
London SEI 7RT
Tel. (4471) 620-4444
Fax (4471) 620-0719

Ms. Lili Schürch
NGO WAGGGS representative
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
70, Belle-Cour
1213 Onex
Switzerland
Tel. (022) 819 0125, Private - 793 2273
Fax (022) 819 0124
WAGGGS in South Africa:
The Girl Guides Association of S.A.
[Mrs. Heather Brandon (World Committee)]
P.O. Box 1431, North Cliff
Johannesburg
Tel. (011) 79 53 741
Fax (011) 794 0191

Dr. Deborah Robinson
Coordinator, Programme to Combat Racism
World Council of Churches
150 Route de Ferney
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel. (4122) 791 6202
Fax (4122) 791 0361

Mr. John Hughes
British Anti-Apartheid Movement
13 Mandela Street
London, NW1 ODW
Tel. (4471) 387-7966
Fax (4471) 388-0173

Ms. Edith Ballantyne
President
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1 Rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20
Tel. 733 61 75
Fax 740 10 63

Ms. Kate Orr
Intern
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1 Rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20
Tel. 733-6175
Fax 740-1063

Ms. Mendizabal Veronica
Intern of Human Rights
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1 Rue de Varembe, Case postale 28
1211 Geneva 20
Tel. (4122) 733-6175
Fax (4122) 740-1063

Ms. Annette Scholl
Intern
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1 Rue de Varembe, Case Postale 28
1211 Geneva 20
Tel. (4122) 733-6175
Fax (4122) 740-1063

Ms. Lucinda Chiszar
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
1 Rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20
Tel. 733-6175
Fax 740-1063

South Africa

Mr. Peter Derman
Director
Community Organization Research and Development (CORD)
11 Morningside Rd.
Durban
Tel. (2731) 811360/1
Fax (2731) 813905

Ms. Mapitso Malepa
Director
Entokozweni Early Learning Centre
P. O. Box 54
KwaXuma 1868
Soweto, South Africa
Tel. (2711) 930-3711/1211
Fax (2711) 932-7665

Ms. Jinny Rickards
Director
Grassroots Educare Trust
P.O. Box 38055, Gatesville 7764
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel. (021) 638-3111
Fax (021) 637-3011

Mr. Amos B. Ndebele, Director
Insika Rural Development Association (IRDA)
P. O. Box 2092
Empangeni 3880
South Africa
Tel. (0351) 25061 or 923118
Fax (0351) 922341

Mr. Lekgolo Lazarus Ramalepe
Programme Director
Ithusheng Community Association (ICA)
P. O. Box 52
Lenyenye 0857
South Africa
Tel. (01523542) Ext. 46(w), 48(h)

Mr. Reeves Mabitsi
Personnel Director
Lawyers for Human Rights
730 Van Erkons Building
Pretorius St., Pretoria 0002
Tel. (012) 21 2135
Fax (012) 325 6318

Mr. Jack Blaker
E.D.A.
Box 322, Newtown 2113
Tel. (011) 834-1905
Fax (011) 836-0188

Ms. Beulah Fredericks
Western Cape Foundation for Community Work
P.O. Box 89
Crawford 7700, Cape Town
South Africa
Tel. (21) 6379144/48/53
Fax (21) 638-7661

Ms. Jill Wellbeloved
Chairperson
PLANACT
7A Rockey Street
Yeoville 2198, Johannesburg
P.O. Box 95340, Yeoville 2143
South Africa
Tel. 2711 648-9117/8
Fax 2711 648-6919

Mr. Brian Moholo
Project Worker
PLANACT
Box 93540, Yeoville 2143
South Africa
Tel. (2711) 648-9117
Fax (2711) 648-6919

Mrs. Jane Xaba
Project Coordinator
Masincedane South Africa
NARDSO Representative
Private Bag 1024
Grassland Farm, Tsolo
Transkei, South Africa

Ms. Nombulelo Mayaba
Director, NARDSO
P.O. Box 10, Mount Fletcher
Transkei
Tel. (047 6432) 25W/35H
Fax 373-3409

Mr. Vernie Petersen
National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO)
8 Hattford Street
Highbury, Kuilsriver 7785
South Africa
Tel. (021) 461-7253
Fax (021) 461-5093

Dr. Esther Lategan
National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO)
26 Wandal Street Gardens, Cape Town 8001
P.O. Box 10005
Caledon Square 7905, KAAPSTAD
Tel. (2721) 461-7253
Fax (2721) 461-5093

Mr. Philip M. Balie
Consultant
Balie-Smith Organisational Support Services
29 Select Crescent, Kuilsriver
7580 Cape Town
Tel. (2721) 903-3487
Fax (2721) 903-3487

Mr. Marc Van Ameringen
Regional Director, IDRC
23 Jorissen St.
Braamfontein, Johannesburg
South Africa
Tel. 403-39521314
Fax 403-1417

Ms. Vivienne M. West
Director, Community Development
Alpha Community Projects
P.O. Box 46
Hanover Park, 7764 Cape Town
South Africa
Tel. (021) 691 3089
Fax (021) 691 1983

Mr. Redawaan Hendricks
Director
George Education Resource and Information Centre (GERIC)
62 York Street, André Fourle Bldg.
P.O. Box 9309, George 6530
Tel. (27441) 733431
Fax (27441) 733433

UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Thierry Lemaresquier
Manager, NGO Programme
UNDP
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Tel. (212) 906-6029
Fax (212) 906-5313

Mr. James Mutambirwa
Coordinator of apartheid activities
International Labour Organisation
Geneva
Tel. 799-6543
Fax 798-8685

Ms. Annita Savva
NGO Liaison Officer
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations
Office 176-2
Tel. 917-2127
Fax 917-0001

Mr. L. Ludvigsen
Head, UNCHS (Habitat) office Europe
UNCHS (Habitat)
Palais des Nations
Geneva
Tel. (4122) 907-4683
Fax (4122) 907-0033

Ms. Kanni Wignaraja
Policy Office
United Nations Volunteers programme
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Tel. (4122) 788 34 43
Fax (4122) 788 25 01

Mr. Bouri Sanhouid
Chief, Africa Section
United Nations Volunteers programme
Palais des Nations
CH1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel. (4122) 788 2455
Fax (4122) 788 2501

Mr. William Adriansosolo
Programme Officer
United Nations Volunteers programme
86, Avenue Louis Casai
Geneva
Tel. (4122) 788-2455
Fax (4122) 788-2501

Mrs. Neela Ghai
Human Rights Officer
Centre for Human Rights (Special Procedures Section)
32 Chemin des Voirons, 1296
Coppert, Vd., Geneva
Tel. (022) 917-3943

CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

Mr. Johan Nordenfelt, Director
Mr. Oseloka H. Obaze, Political Affairs Officer
Ms. Evelyn Salvador, Meeting Services Assistant
Ms. Kalyani Viswanathan, Secretary

Annex VI

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS CIRCULATED AT THE CONSULTATION

United Nations documents

Coordinated approach by the United Nations system on questions relating to South Africa: report of the Secretary-General (A/47/559)

Report of the Seminar on South Africa's Socio-Economic Problems: Future Role of the United Nations System in Helping to Address Them, held at Windhoek from 22 to 24 May 1992 (A/AC.115/L.685)

Report on the Consultations with anti-apartheid movements and non-governmental organizations, held at Geneva on 30 November and 1 December 1992 (A/AC.115/L.691)

Report of the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid on his Mission to South Africa, 1 to 11 March 1993 (A/48/202, annex)

Declaration of the International Conference on Southern Africa: Making Hope a Reality, held in London on 14 and 15 June 1993 (A/48/255, annex I)

Southern Africa After Apartheid (Africa Recovery Briefing Paper No. 4, 1991)

Background materials circulated by non-governmental organizations and anti-apartheid movements

The Donor Community in South Africa - A Directory (issued as South African Information Exchange Working Paper No. 26 by the Institute of International Education, New York, 1993)

The Rural Development Crisis: A Concept Paper, by L. J. Abrams, Rural Advice Centre, Johannesburg, 1992

Policy Positions on Redistribution to Promote Socio-economic Development, by Sipho Shabalala, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Framework for Africa Policy, Washington Notes on Africa, spring 1993

"Corporate Responsibility from the Ground Up, etc.", The Corporate Examiner, vol. 22, No. 4 (1993)

Southern Africa: Making Hope A Reality, Declaration 1, and The Conference Secretary's Report (British Anti-Apartheid Movement)

The Role of Sanctions in promoting Democratic Change (British Anti-Apartheid Movement)

Future Development Cooperation with South Africa - Council Declaration (from the Official Journal of the European Communities, 2 August 1993)

Grassroots 20 Years On (Annual Report 1992 of Grassroots Educare Trust)

Shared Interest: A project of Fund for a Free South Africa (Report to the United Nations Centre against Apartheid Joint American/European NGO Consultation)